

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Post-Exilic Prophets

Course Lecturer: Richard O. Rigsby, ThD, PhD
Professor of Semitic Languages and Old Testament at Talbot School of Theology

Course Description

Even when His people fail, God remains faithful. This course explores God's relationship with Israel after the exile as recorded in the historical and biblical contexts of the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The course begins with a study of the historical and cultural backgrounds of each book and then moves to a detailed exposition of the messages, events, and contents of the postexilic books. Rigsby examines how these messages of God's faithfulness apply to His people today.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the times in which the Post-Exilic Prophets ministered.
- Grasp how the Post-Exilic period fits into the flow of Biblical history.
- Be acquainted with the messages of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- Be aware of how these messages might be applied today.

Course Lecturer



Richard O. Rigsby, ThD, PhD

Education:

- College of William and Mary and George Washington University, graduate work
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, ThD and PhD
- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, BD and MDiv
- John B. Stetson University, AB

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Semitic Languages and Old Testament, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University
- Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
- Associate Professor of Old Testament, Simpson College (mid-1970s)
- Director of the Bible Lands Program, which aids students in connecting the biblical landscape of Turkey, Greece, and Rome with the Bible itself
- Lectured and ministered in several countries around the world

Other Career Highlights:

- Ordained as a Baptist minister
- High involvement with local church ministries throughout the states of California, Kentucky, and Virginia
- Pastor at more than a dozen churches over the course of 40 years
- Intelligence Analyst, United States Army (late 1950s)
- Member of various associations, including the *American Academy of Religion*, *Biblical Archaeology Society*, and the *Evangelical Theological Society*
- Los Angeles Board of Jews for Jesus

Publications:

- Numerous articles for *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, *The Holman Bible Handbook*, and *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*
- Translator of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Job for the *New King James Bible*; in total translated more than 10% of the Old Testament
- Author of many of the notes and study materials for the *Old Testament for the Open Bible* and the *Life Recovery Bible*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning. A good translation of the Old Testament.

Baldwin, Joyce. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*, 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

Feinberg, Charles L. *The Minor Prophets*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.

Freeman, Hobart. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1968.

Gaebelein, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*. Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 2003.

Wood, Leon. *A Survey of Israel's History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.